

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/821,787

Examiner

Rodney G. McDonald

Applicant(s)

WEICHART, JUERGEN

Art Unit

1753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

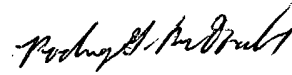
1. ☒ This communication is responsive to After Final Amendment filed June 2, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-5 and 13-36.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 2-29-01 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 6-21-04
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Rodney G. McDonald
Primary Examiner
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

An examiner's amendment to the status indicators is needed to put the claims in proper form. Below are the changes to the status indicators, which do not affect the claims in their presented form whatsoever.

Claims 2-4, 17 and 22, line 1, change "(Previously amended)" to "(Previously presented)".

Claims 23-36, line 1, change "(Previously added)" to "(Previously presented)".

Authorization for the examiner's amendment below was given in a telephone interview with James McKeown on June 21, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 3, line 3, insert the word "through-" before "slots".

Claim 30, line 1, change "13" to "14".

Claim 31, line 1, change "13" to "14".

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 2-5, 13-18 and 30-34 are allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art of record does not teach the claimed subject matter including a self-contained hollow screen body having an inner surface and an outer surface configured as a substantially thin-walled cylindrical member so as to be replaceable as a unit, said

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hollow screen body being arranged substantially coaxially to said coil axis within said treatment space, the inner surface of said hollow screen body being freely exposed to said treatment space, said hollow screen body having a pattern of through-slots extending substantially in a direction of said coil axis and being distributed around said coil axis to allow for direct line-of-sight paths along the through-slots from the outer surface to the inner surface of said hollow screen body, with a density S of said slots of said pattern per cm taken in a circumferential direction of said screen body being at least 0.5.

Claims 19-29, 35 and 36 are allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art of record does not teach the claimed subject matter including providing a self-contained hollow screen body with an inner surface and with an outer surface configured as a substantially thin-walled cylindrical member so as to be replaceable as a unit and arranged coaxially to said coil within said treatment space, with said inner surface being freely exposed to said treatment space; said hollow screen body having a pattern of through-slots extending substantially in a direction of an axis of said coil and distributed around said coil axis to provide direct line-of-sight paths along the through slots from the outer surface to the inner surface of said hollow screen body, a density S of said slots of said pattern per cm taken in a circumferential direction of said screen body being at least 0.5; and surface-treating in said treatment space said workpiece exposed to said plasma.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rodney G. McDonald whose telephone number is 571-272-1340. The examiner can normally be reached on M- Th with Every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam X. Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Rodney G. McDonald
Primary Examiner
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RM
June 21, 2004